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Creating a viable, balanced  
King County budget  
for our community

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**King County**

Dear Vashon/Maury Islander,

It is truly an honor to serve the citizens of King County Council District Eight. Over the past several years I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people—from White Center, Boulevard Park, South Park, Vashon, West Seattle, Burien and throughout King County—as together we tackle the difficult challenges facing our local communities.



**Councilmember  
Dow Constantine**

Our most daunting task this year was adopting a budget that meets the needs of our citizens. Revenues are relatively flat. Demand for services and the cost of delivering those services is increasing. The County continues to struggle to find ways to provide all the quality services that our citizens expect and deserve.

As vice-chair of the Council's Budget Committee, I am proud of our accomplishment this year in crafting a balanced 2005 County budget. We continued to strive for increased efficiencies and better ways of providing services. We focused on community priorities and invested in the programs that will provide the greatest return on investment.

You have entrusted me with a great responsibility. I work hard every day to justify that trust. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Dow*

Dow Constantine  
Metropolitan King County Council  
District Eight

**Winter 2005**

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## Vashon/Maury Island Budget Highlights

**As a member of King County's Budget Leadership team, I worked throughout the past several months to produce an efficient and effective budget. I was also careful to ensure that the unique needs of Vashon and Maury Islands were addressed.**

### Preserving our Future

We continued to make progress in acquiring the last, best places to protect wetland habitat, surface water quality, mature forest land, and recharge areas for the islands' sole-source aquifer. A piece of the Judd Creek wetlands and Piner Point on Maury were highlights of this year's conservation budget.

### Voice of Vashon

As part of the County's cable franchise negotiations, I was able to reach an agreement to allow the Voice of Vashon, Vashon's community radio station, to feed into the cable system and provide clear audio programming across the entire Island. With the assistance of some modest County-purchased equipment, we should be able to accomplish this goal in 2005. This technology might even allow local Vashon television programming in the future!

### Bank Road Safety Project

The adoption of Initiative 747 a few years ago drastically reduced the County's road budget. While we have trimmed the number of projects that will be completed in the next few years, we were able to approve funding for the Bank Road Safety Project for

Vashon's main intersection. This much needed project should be underway next year.

### Dockton Park Upgrade

Thanks in part to the voter-approved parks levy, a number of needed park improvements were funded in this year's budget. Dockton Park will receive funds for picnic shelter and concession improvements. Look forward to enjoying these enhancements next year and well into the future.

### Development of Island Teens

We must invest in services to help keep young people out of trouble and on the right track. Not only is it better for the kids, it is a smart investment for taxpayers. Partnering with successful local programs provides the best return on investment. I am proud that the County budget recognizes the Development of Island Teens program as a valuable asset to island youth.

### Water-borne Transit Study

As a member of the County's Regional Transit Committee, I joined in requesting that water-borne transit be studied as a potential transportation alternative by King County Metro transit. In addition to the Elliott Bay Water Taxi, a number of possible ferry routes have been discussed, including one or more Eastside locations to the University of Washington. It is important for King County to study the Vashon-Seattle passenger ferry run, and for all of us to support our legislators in their effort to make Washington State keep its commitment to the Vashon passenger-only service.